

Message Text

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64

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13

OMB-01 /070 W

----- 009014

R 160910Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4581

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

/USLO PEKING 145

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KUALA LUMPUR 5329

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PROP, PFOR, MY, CH

SUBJECT: MALAYSIAN GOVERNMENT CENSORS FAR EASTERN ECONOMIC REVIEW

REF: KUALA LUMPUR 5239 (NOTAL)

1. IN THE FIRST INSTANCE OF ITS KIND SINCE DATUK HUSSEIN ONN TOOK OVER AS PRIME MINISTER IN JANUARY OF THIS YEAR, THE GOM HAS BLACKED OUT PART OF A STORY IN THE SEPT 17 EDITION OF THE "FAR EASTERN ECONOMIC REVIEW." ON PAGE 6, A BOX CONTAINING WHAT APPEARS TO BE A SLOGAN OR AN EXCERPT FROM AN OBITUARY ON CHAIRMAN MAO BY EDITOR DEREK DAVIES HAS BEEN INKED OUT QON ALL FEER COPIES IN MALAYSIA. WE PRESUME THAT THE OFFENSIVE MATERIAL HAD SOMETHING TO DO WITH GOM SENSITIVITIES OVER SECURITY, AND, IF SO, IS FURTHER EVIDENCE OF THE CAREFUL APPROACH THE MALAYSIANS ARE TAKING IN REACTING TO THE CHAIRMAN'S DEMISE (REFTEL).

2. REQUEST HONG KONG PROVIDE US WITH THE TEXT OF THE DELETED MATERIAL.

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3. CONTRARY TO OUR OWN, EARLY, ESTIMATE THAT THE CROWDS AT THE PRC EMBASSY PAYING TRIBUTE TO MAO ARE SMALLER THAN THOSE FOR CHOU EN-LAI, THE POLICE NOW ESTIMATE THAT THERE HAVE BEEN AN AVERAGE OF 400-500 PEOPLE PER DAY AT THE EMBASSY DURING THIS EIGHT DAY MOURNING PERIOD COMPARED WITH 300-400 PER DAY DURING THE TWO DAY PERIOD FOR CHOU IN JANUARY. HOWEVER, THE VISITORS FOR MAO, VIRTUALLY ALL ETHNIC CHINESE, HAVE BEEN APPRECIABLE YOUNGER THAN THOSE FOR CHOU. UNDERHILL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, CENSORSHIP, POLITICAL LEADERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976KUALA05329
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760350-0464
From: KUALA LUMPUR
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760954/aaaabubs.tel
Line Count: 70
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 KUALA LUMPUR 5239
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 MAY 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <20 SEP 2004 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MALAYSIAN GOVERNMENT CENSORS FAR EASTERN ECONOMIC REVIEW
TAGS: PROP, PFOR, PINS, MY, CH, (MAO TSE-TUNG)
To: STATE HONG KONG
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006